

# REMOVAL OR DECOMMISSIONING OF A SWIMMING POOL OR SPA



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## REMOVAL OF SWIMMING POOL/SPA

An above or below ground swimming pool that is completely removed and if it is a below ground pool, the hole is filled in. This pool can be removed from the Shire register and an inspection fee will no longer be charged.

## DECOMMISSIONED SWIMMING POOL/SPA

Where the property owner empties a swimming pool or spa of water, but leaves the shell or structure in place, it is considered by the Shire of Chittering to be a *decommissioned* swimming pool or spa. All private swimming pools and spas containing water more than 300mm deep must have a compliant safety barrier. A decommissioned swimming pool or spa would no longer need to meet these requirements provided it continued to hold water less than 300mm deep. However, unless steps are taken, during the winter months a decommissioned swimming pool or spa can capture rainwater to a depth exceeding 300mm and will therefore require a compliant safety barrier in place.

Therefore for a swimming pool or spa not to hold rainwater the Shire recommends the following:

- Holes punched through the bottom of a hard shell at the lowest point; and/or
- Removal of the flexible liner for framed pools. When emptying a swimming pool or spa of water, consideration needs to be given to the appropriate disposal of the water. The Shire recommends disposal by a licensed liquid waste contractor. Under no circumstances should water be emptied into or be allowed to enter into the following:
  - The sewer system;
  - Shire of Chittering stormwater drainage system;
  - Discharged off-site.

The property owner also needs to be aware of the following issues that can affect a decommissioned swimming pool or spa:

- The potential to hold water to a depth greater than 300mm;
- An unfenced below ground pool or spa is a potential hazard for trips and falls;
- The potential to be breeding ground for mosquitoes.

A decommissioned swimming pool or spa is still listed on the Shire of Chittering's register and will be reinspected at intervals of no more than four years. The swimming pool or spa will therefore still incur the annual part inspection fee on your Rates notice until completely removed from the property.

Should the property owner wish to recommission their swimming pool or spa at any time then they must ensure a compliant safety barrier is in place prior to the swimming pool or spa being refilled with water.